



OKLAHOMA 4-H AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN



THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB CANINE GOOD CITIZEN® PROGRAM

4-H members should set the standard for being responsible dog owners. Part of being a responsible dog owner is having your dog recognized as a Canine Good Citizen. The AKC Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) is designed to recognize dogs that exhibit good manners and stresses that the handler is a responsible dog owner. CGC provides an excellent foundation for further training in other 4-H dog related events such as obedience, agility, showmanship and rally obedience. In order to receive CGC recognition the 4-Hers and their dogs will need to demonstrate the ability to accomplish the 10 test items listed in this guide.

1. ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER

Your dog should allow a friendly stranger to approach him and speak to you in an natural way. Your dog must not act scared, try to run off or go to the stranger. Joining a 4-H dog club is a great way to get your dog used to being around other people. Take some of your dogs favorite snacks so he'll enjoy going to the club meeting.



2. SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING

During this test your dog will allow a stranger to touch him while he's out with you. Your dog must allow others to pet his head and body without being afraid. While at club practice have other members approach and pet your dog. Offer him lots of praise while he is sitting politely.

3. APPEARANCE AND GROOMING

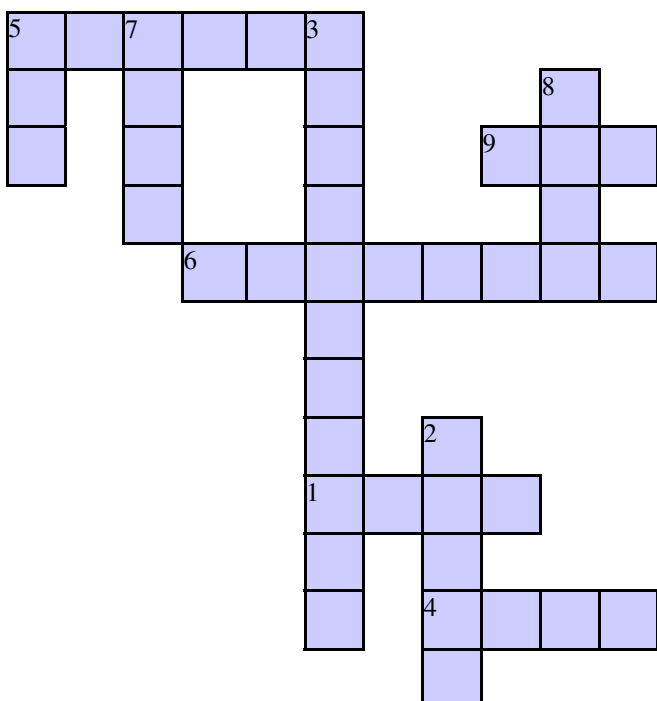
As a responsible dog owner you should clean and groom your dog. Spend time brushing your dog often and examining his body. Play with your dog's paws and ears so he'll be accustomed to being handled all over. Allow others to groom and examine your dog so he won't be scared when visiting places like the veterinarian clinic or the groomers.



4. OUT FOR A WALK—This will demonstrate that you are in control of your dog. Your dog should pay attention to you and respond to your movements. Practice right turns, left turns, about turns and stops. Sitting at halt is not a requirement for CGC but it is great time to start teaching your dog to sit every time you stop in case you decide to enter a 4-H obedience competition.

5. WALKING THROUGH A CROWD

During this exercise you will lead your dog around several people. Your dog must pay attention to you and respond to your movements. Your dog shouldn't get overly excited or fearful. Practice at your 4-H meeting and remember to praise him for a job well done.



ACROSS:

1. sound a dog makes
4. don't move
5. you attach the leash and id to this
6. do this often to keep your dog's coat healthy
9. man's best friend

DOWN:

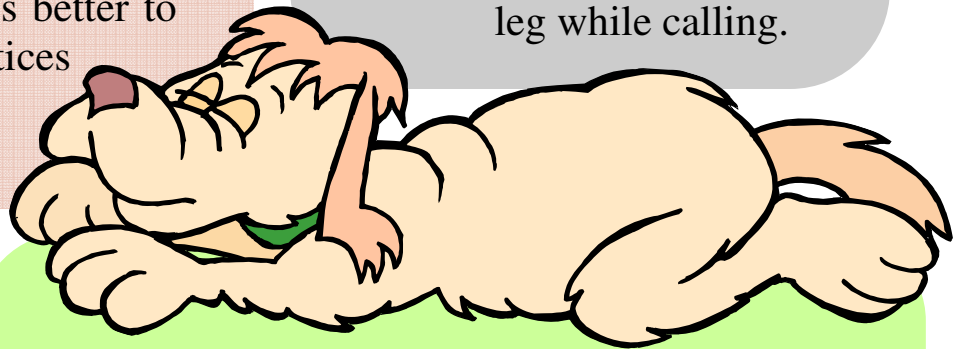
2. a tool used for grooming
3. being accountable for your dog
5. short for Canine Good Citizen
7. another word for leash
8. command given for your dog to lay

6. SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND AND STAYING IN PLACE

During this test you will have your dog “sit” and “down” on command. You will also have your dog stay while you walk to the end of a 20 ft line and return. Break it down, start teaching your dog to “sit”, to “down” and “stay” as separate exercises. Keep in mind your dog has a short attention span, it’s better to have a lot of short practices than a few long sessions.

7. COMING WHEN CALLED

You will demonstrate that your dog will come to you when called. In this exercise you will leave your dog and walk 10 feet away, turn to face your dog and call him to you. You are welcome to offer encouragement such as patting your leg while calling.



9. REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS

This will demonstrate your dog’s ability to remain confident amongst distractions. Examples of distractions might be somebody dropping an item like a chair or a jogger running past. Your dog should show only normal interest but not be aggressive or panicky.

8. REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG

Your dog should behave politely around other dogs. Practice at club, by you and a friend walking your dogs up to each other, shake hands and continue on. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Take turns approaching different 4-Hers with their dogs.

10. SUPERVISED SEPARATION—You will demonstrate that your dog can be left alone. The evaluator will hold your dog’s leash while you leave your dog’s sight for 3 minutes. Your dog should not show anything more than mild agitation. Practice leaving your dog’s sight. Start with short exits and increase them as your dog learns to expect your safe return. If he whines wait for him to stop before returning so he doesn’t associate whining with your return.

AKC CGC® RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER'S PLEDGE

I understand that to truly be a Canine Good Citizen, my dog needs a responsible owner. I agree to maintain my dog's health, safety, and quality of life. By participating in the Canine Good Citizen test, I agree:

I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DOG'S HEALTH NEEDS. THESE INCLUDE:

- Routine veterinary care including check-ups and vaccines
- Adequate nutrition through proper diet; clean water at all times
- Daily exercise and regular bathing and grooming

I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DOG'S SAFETY.

- I will properly control my dog by providing fencing where appropriate, not letting my dog run loose, and using a leash in public.
- I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoos, or microchip ID).

I WILL NOT ALLOW MY DOG TO INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.

- I will not allow my dog to run loose in the neighborhood.
- I will not allow my dog to be a nuisance to others by barking while in the yard, in a hotel room, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in all public areas such as on the grounds of hotels, on sidewalks, parks, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in wilderness areas, on hiking trails, campgrounds, and in off-leash parks.

I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DOG'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

- I understand that basic training is beneficial to all dogs.
- I will give my dog attention and playtime.
- I understand that owning a dog is a commitment in time and caring.

For more information on the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program ask your 4-H Leader or log on to <http://akc.org>

References Cited

American Kennel Club. Canine Good Citizen® Program.
<http://www.akc.org/events/cgx/program.cfm>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1) Bark, 4) Stay, 5) Collar, 6) Grooming, 9) Dog

DOWN: 2) Brush, 3) Responsible, 5) CGC, 7) Lead, 8) Down

